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PATENT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 046124-5025

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Yukio KATO et al.)
U.S. National Phase Application)
Filed: May 26, 2000)
U.S. Application No.: To Be Assigned)
Date of National)
Stage Entry: Concurrently) Art Unit: Unassigned
Based on PCT/JP98/05348) Examiner: Unassigned
Filed: June 10, 1999)
For: HUMAN FETUS CHONDROCYTE-)
DERIVED GENE)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination in the above-identified application
please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-10.

Add the following claims 11-24:

11. A protein specifically expressed in differentiated
chondrocytes, comprising an ezrin-like domain, a Db1 domain, and
a pleckstrin domain.